

education...an established ESU by two or more ESUs to form a new educational service unit. They may petition to have addition of school districts that are not part of an ESU, may petition to go into an established ESU or a new ESU, or they may petition to withdraw a school district or districts from an ESU and not participate in the sys'em. The State Board would base its decisions on the following statutory criteria. They would look at the educational needs of the students, the economic viability of the proposed change, and let me point out that's the economic viability of both the newly established ESU or the ESU that is opting out and also the economic viability of those districts that are left. The State...I want to make the intent of this portion very clear that our intent is that the State Board of Education will take a look at what's left if an individual school district seeks to leave an ESU and assure itself that there maintains a viable tax base for that ESU to continue to exist. Community interest will also be considered and geographic proximity will be considered. Following public hearings, the State Board would approve or reject the petition, stating its reasons therefore if the plan is rejected. Now, backing up a statement, all counties which have opted out of an educational service unit in the past will be reinstated January 1 of 1988. That was the recommendation of the study committee that all counties should participate. However, and this is where a compromise came in again, for a one-year period, beginning January 1, 1988, school districts could opt out of their ESU upon a majority vote of the school board. In other words, January 1 of 1988, all property in the state is in an ESU, for one year they may opt out. They may opt out under the following procedures. Such districts will have no claim on educational service units. Again, this was a key point given to those that support educational service units to say that if, for instance, my school district, Papillion-LaVista, were to opt out of ESU3, they couldn't say, well, over the years we paid a lot of money in taxes to support...to support ESU3 so we should have some of those assets. They have no claim on the assets. They shall be entitled to contract with the ESU for services. Such services may not be withheld or granted at unreasonable prices. The appeal to District Court is available for an aggrieved school district. Principal office of the ESU need not be located within an ESU boundary if the school district in which such office is located has moved into another ESU. Then we have done a number of transitional rules when an ESU is reorganized, dealing with things like appointment of temporary board members, the effective dates, a number of other things dealing...that are primarily transitional rules. I'm running out of my time here